



As your Attorney General, one of my top priorities is to work in partnership with our state's law-enforcement community to prevent violent crimes from occurring.

However, when these crimes do happen, we can take comfort in knowing that there is a place for people to turn. That is the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board, created to help ease the suffering of victims of violent crime and to enable them to begin to rebuild their lives.

With the help of my dedicated staff, the Attorney General's Office will continue to be a place for victims to receive the help they need and the compensation they deserve. Working together, we can make Arkansas a safer place for our children and for our future.

Mike Beebe

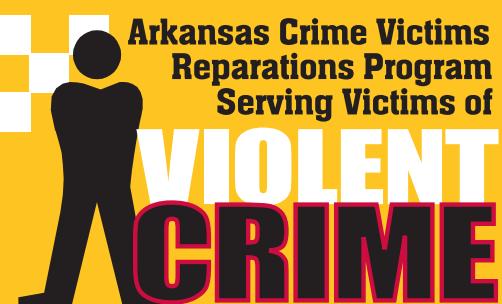


Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board
Office of the Attorney General
Mike Beebe
323 Center Street, Suite 1100
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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Victims of Violent Crime can get help

The Attorney General's Crime Victims Reparations Program



Victims of violent crime can get help.

What is the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Program?

The Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations program was created to provide a method of compensating and assisting victims and their dependents who have suffered personal injury or death as the result of a violent crime, including DWI. Economic losses covered under the program include medical care, counseling, rehabilitation, work-loss, and funeral expenses. The program is funded by the collection of fees from criminal offenders, as well as by federal grants provided through the Victims of Crime Act.

Who can apply for assistance?

Assistance is available to any individual or family member of an individual who suffers injury or death as a result of criminal conduct committed in Arkansas. The criminal act must be punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or death. Assistance is also available to Arkansas residents victimized in another state that has no compensation program or who are victimized during an act of terrorism committed outside the United States. Those eligible for assistance include the following:

- A victim of violent crime;
- The dependent or child of a victim, including children of adoption;
- A person authorized to act on behalf of a victim or dependent;
- The spouse, parent, child, sibling, or grandparent of certain victims, i.e. deceased victims, child victims, or victims of sexual assault;
- Non-immediate family members of a victim who resided in the same permanent household as a deceased victim at the time of the crime; or
- Individuals who discover the body of a homicide victim.

It is not necessary for a claimant to prove financial need in order to be eligible for compensation, nor must there be an arrest or conviction before compensation is paid.

How do I apply for assistance?

Claim forms can be obtained from the Attorney General's Office. Victim-service organizations also have applications and may be able to provide assistance in completing the application.

Once a claim is received by the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board, the board and staff will make a decision, and the claimant will receive written notification of their decision regarding the claim. Denied claims may be appealed, and claimants may appear before the Crime Victims Reparations Board for a hearing on their appeal.

Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board

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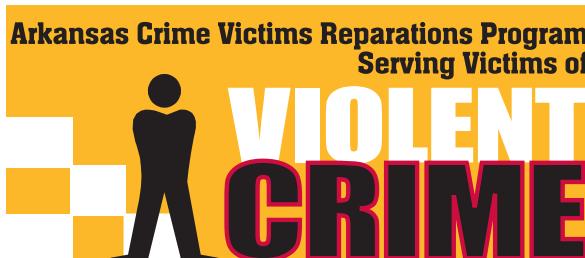
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Wendy Cunningham-Sanders
Avis Jones
Michael McGrew
Varnell Messer
Lynette Parham

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mike Beebe
323 Center Street, Suite 1100
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 682-1020
1-800-448-3014
www.ag.state.ar.us

Applications for crime victims' compensation can be requested by calling (501) 682-1020 or 1-800-448-3014 or by visiting www.ag.state.ar.us.



Year In Review

Review

Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board

\$2.8 Million Awarded to Victims in 2002

Since its creation by the Arkansas Legislature in 1987, the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board has disbursed millions of dollars to crime victims. In 2002, the program awarded \$2,836,814.79 to 1,920 individuals, helping them deal with the suffering caused by criminal acts. Examples include the following:

• Shortly after their relationship ended, the defendant went to the home of his 20-year-old girlfriend and fired several shots through a window, striking her in the back and rendering her a quadriplegic. Because the victim's injuries resulted in a total and permanent disability, she qualified for a \$25,000 award to help pay medical expenses.

• While obtaining cash from an ATM, a woman was approached by an armed man who demanded money. After robbing the victim, he fired several shots at her as he fled. The Crime Victims' Program provided assistance to the woman for mental-health expenses and lost wages.

- While in Israel, an Arkansas woman was severely injured in the lobby of her hotel when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives. The woman suffered extensive physical injuries, including loss of sight in one eye. The Crime Victims' Program assisted with her medical expenses and lost wages in the amount of \$25,000.
- During a robbery in his home, a 74-year-old man was shot by an intruder. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with the man's medical expenses that were not covered by other sources.
- A 32-year-old South Arkansas man discovered that a family member had been slowly poisoning him over a period of time. The victim had been given doses of anti-freeze through his food and drink, and his medication had been altered. The Crime Victims' Program assisted with his medical and counseling expenses.

*fact:
1,920
VICTIMS*

PAID IN

2002

Eligibility criteria

- ◆ The crime must have occurred on or after July 1, 1988.
- ◆ The claimant/victim cannot be the offender or an accomplice of the offender.
- ◆ Compensation that could be awarded shall be reduced or denied depending on the degree of responsibility for the injury or death that is attributable to the victim.
- ◆ The claimant/victim must not have been convicted of a criminally injurious felony.
- ◆ The victimization must not have occurred while the victim was confined in a state, county, or municipal jail, prison, or other correctional facility.
- ◆ The injury cannot be the result of negligent maintenance/use of a motor vehicle unless the injurious act was committed with the intent to inflict injury or death or unless the act committed was in violation of the Omnibus DWI Act, A.C.A. § 5-65-101 et seq.; or A.C.A. § 27-53-101. (Leaving the scene of an accident involving serious injury or death.)
- ◆ Compensation shall not be awarded to a claimant if it would unjustly benefit the offender or accomplice.
- ◆ Payment cannot be made for expenses that are covered by another source.
- ◆ The claimant/victim must cooperate with law-enforcement officials during the investigation of the victimization.

\$390,864 Paid by Sexual Assault Reimbursement Program

847 Claims Paid

The Sexual Assault Reimbursement Program allows evidence to be collected after an alleged sexual assault has been committed, without the victim carrying the further burden of the expense. The program pays for ambulance services and medical-legal examinations, but in no way attempts to prove or disprove the sexual-assault allegation.

For medical facilities to seek reimbursement for expenses incurred during a medical-legal examination, the victim must seek treatment within 72 hours, unless "good cause" is shown for failure to do so. Reporting deadlines are waived for minors. A reimbursement form is completed and signed by a physician (or sexual-assault nurse examiner) and law-enforcement officer (or victim-witness professional) and submitted, along with an itemized statement, to the Office of the Attorney General. This process prevents victims from suffering an out-of-pocket expense and eliminates the need for victims to file paperwork.



2002 Claims Summary

Total Amount Paid:	\$2,836,814.79
Total Claims Received:	2,242
Total Claims Awarded:	1,920
Total Claims Denied:	163
Total Claims Closed:	163

TOTALS	1920	\$2,836,814.79
\$350.00		